where I have had opportunities of examining the vascular tissues, there showed mineral deficiency as compared with corresponding healthy tissues."

In the treatment of wasting diseases, the usefulness of the hypophosphites and phosphoric acid is recognized, but phosphoric acid alone cannot form the tissue phosphate; the whole salt should be given, or all the materials for its formation supplied. In the same manner "hypophosphorous acid has no place in tissue formation, it is only by conversion into phosphoric acid that it can be utilized," and in fact the recorded cases show that where it has been most successful, "it has been given under conditions to utilize the acid and the base, as factors of tissue phosphate." Notes of several cases of consumption treated by the tissue phosphate are given where its administration was followed by marked benefit; and hopes are held out that by this means incipient phthisis may be permanently relieved.

A difference of opinion may exist concerning the view entertained by Dr. Anderson of the rationale of the administration of lime juice in scurvy, but as the conclusions are not affected by it, we need not here stop to discuss it.

This little work represents a large amount of patient, well-directed, original investigation for which the author deserves much credit. The results of his studies and analytical researches tend to throw light upon the causes of obscure constitutional diseases, and lay the groundwork for a more rational method of their treatment. F. W.

ART. XL.—*Transactions of State Medical Societies.*

1. *Transactions of the Medical and Chirurgical Faculty of the State of Maryland*, April, 1878, pp. 208. Baltimore, Md., 1878.
2. *Transactions of the South Carolina Medical Association*, April, 1878, pp. xlvi., 89. Charleston, S. C., 1878.
3. *Medical Communications of the Massachusetts Medical Society.* Second series, Vol. viii., Part iv. Boston, Mass., 1878.
4. *Transactions of the Medical Society of the State of California*, 1877–8, pp 275. Sacramento, Cal., 1878.
5. *Transactions of the Medical Society of the State of North Carolina*, May, 1878, pp. 103. Wilmington, 1878.
6. *Transactions of the Medical Society of the State of New York* for 1878, pp. 339. Syracuse, N. Y., 1878.
7. *Transactions of the Medical Society of New Jersey* for 1878, pp. 390. Newark, N. J., 1878.

1. THE neat issue of the *Maryland Faculty* contains a loving and appreciative *Notice of Dr. Nathan R. Smith*, who recently died at the age of eighty. The memoir is by Dr. S. C. Chew, brief, well written, and accompanied with a photographic portrait.

Dr. A. P. Smith, in a paper describing his *Fifty-two Successful Cases of Lithotomy*, gives an account (with illustrations) of a case of *double bladder and double penis*. The scrotum and testes were normal. The twin external organs were rather small, destitute of prepuce, and at first sight perfectly symmetrical. In one, however, the urethra was found normal, while in the other it ended just in front of the scrotum. At the choice of the patient urine could be voided from either. The excretion varied in quality, so much as to demonstrate complete separation of the two bladders. There was some deficiency of the abdominal walls in front of the bladder. A more exact description of many points in this

case would have been very interesting. Dr. Smith attributes the uniformity of his success to the use of the lithotome invented by his father, Dr. N. R. Smith.

Two cases of extroverted bladder are reported by Dr. Monmonier.

Dr. Friedenwald calls attention to *spasm of accommodation* as an optical trouble not always understood. Its occurrence and character in young school children are especially noted.

Dr. Thos. Brown condemns divulsion as a treatment of urethral stricture. Internal urethrotomy is much preferred. In forming his opinion he has been aided by a large body of correspondence from eminent surgeons.

Dr. Jos. A. White reports, with illustrations, a terrible case of bony tumour in the face of an infant, causing the loss of an eye and horrible deformity.

Dr. L. McLane Tiffany reports success in removing *naso-pharyngeal polypus* by Cheever's method, temporary depression of the entire upper jaw being resorted to, to procure room, and tracheotomy employed as a preliminary.

We regret that lack of space forbids notice of several other valuable papers.

2. We learn from the *South Carolina* publication that the profession, and intelligent business men of the Southern States deeply feel the need of judicious National legislation, to replace the present conflicting and often unwise quarantine regulations of different localities. In response to petitions Congress did pass a bill requiring consuls to report the prevalence of epidemics to the Bureau of Marine Hospital Service. But it surely comes within the scope of Congressional right and duty to assume the entire charge of public health in all States, so far as affected by commercial relations.

Perhaps the principal paper in this collection is upon *Yellow fever, as observed at Port Royal in* 1877, by Dr. M. Simons. Fully satisfied that at some times and places epidemics have presented features of a hybrid or malarial or doubtful character, the writer states that on this occasion the cases were all typical. Malarial fevers appeared, as usual, running their course as if wholly unaffected by the epidemic. The effects of a stiff dose of quinia would always settle the question of diagnosis. The yellow fever attacked none who had suffered previous attacks of undoubted genuineness. Dr. Simons attributes the epidemic distinctly and solely to importation by means of vessels. Other theories of causation are pretty thoroughly examined, but do not seem to fit the facts.

Dr. Kinloch reports a curious case, supposed to be one of rupture or *injury to the external iliac artery*, though without any lesion of integument save severe bruises. Gangrene occurred, necessitating amputation below the knee.

Dr. Nardin, by *lateral lithotomy*, removed an eight ounce stone from the bladder of a young coloured man. The circumferences of the concretion were $8\frac{1}{4}$ by $9\frac{1}{2}$ inches. A good recovery ensued, in spite of symptoms of recto-urethral fistula, which gradually disappeared.

3. The present number of the *Massachusetts* publication contains a most admirable "annual discourse" by Dr. Francis Minot, brimful of good sense, modestly entitled *Hints on Ethics and Hygiene*. We had marked for quotation passages on medical education, school hygiene, and on the question of admitting women to full educational and professional privileges, but, despairing at the amount of riches, we will merely recommend the whole essay to all who can gain access to it.

Dr. Thos. Dwight has a very elaborate treatise on *The Identification of the Human Skeleton*, for which the Society awarded him a prize. A notice of this will be found on another page.

In an article on *Floating Spleen* we find some curious statements and extracts

from ancient writers. Plinius Secundus speaks disrespectfully of the organ; says it impedes the speed of the athlete in running; reports that it may be safely removed, with the sole harm of destroying the laughing proclivities of the patient; "for sure it is that intemperate laughers have always great spleens." This seems rather opposite to our common notions and expressions. Some writers even as late as the seventeenth century speak of fleetness as interfered with by the organ, and assert its occasional removal from professional runners. The paper is by Dr. Frederick C. Shattuck.

Dr. Rotch has been making experiments on the cadaver, to determine for diagnostic purposes the *area of dulness*, its exact shape, size, and limits, *caused by pericardial effusion*. Melted cocoa butter was used, by injection into the heart-sac. Of course the amount of injection was carefully noted in relation to the percussion sound Guidance as to proper place for puncture is believed to be derived from such experiments. We are not sure whether the observer sufficiently considered the difference between dead and living organs, and between manifold conditions of life and death. Certainly he would seem to have somewhat overlooked this important matter. We would not, however, deny the great interest and value of his experiments. He considers absence of resonance in the fifth intercostal space, right side, as pathognomonic of pericardial effusion.

4. We are glad to learn from the *California Transactions* that the noble example of Harvard has borne good fruit even on the distant shores of the Pacific. The Medical Department of the State University and the Medical College of the Pacific have established a three-years' graded course of study. The report of Dr. H. S. Orme on *Medical Education* takes the highest ground, quoting the latest words of Prof. Pepper, Sir Wm. Gull, and Dr. N. S. Davis.

The experience of Dr. F. W. Hatch, as to *diphtheria*, leads him to believe that insanitary conditions may, and do, at times, originate the disease.

The grave questions concerning infant mortality, especially in asylums, are judiciously treated by the gentleman last named.

Dr. John Scott, in a paper on *Uterine Fibroids*, deprecates the frequent practice of dilating the os uteri, as often productive of constitutional irritation, leading on to destructive pyæmia or septicæmia. Simple incision, he regards as far safer, either as substitute for, or antecedent to, dilatation for removal of these tumours.

Dr. James Murphy contributes to the literature of excisional surgery several original cases of operation on the ankle-joint, with critical *résumé* of opinion on the subject, and a warm advocacy of this form of conservative surgery.

There are a number of more or less able and instructive essays and reports, needing, however, no particular comment.

5. One quite elaborate paper in the *North Carolina Transactions*, as well as a briefer one, and a discussion, indicate that diphtheria is arresting much attention there, as further north.

The retiring president, Dr. Payne, deals, in his valedictory address, with the curious and much disputed subject of *ante-natal impressions*. He contributes some new and singular cases to the already extensive literature of this subject. An instance of snake-resemblance calls to mind a very extraordinary one published several years ago in the *Journal of Insanity*, as well as Dr. Holmes's unhappy heroine in "Elsie Venner."

6. Before the *New York Society* Dr. Stephen Smith describes with enthusiastic advocacy the advantages and the practical methods of *antiseptic surgery*. A number of critical operations are given to illustrate its successful workings.

Dr. Arthur Mathewson, of the Brooklyn Eye and Ear Hospital, illustrates with four original cases the *diagnosis of intra-cranial tumours* from the ophthalmoscopic appearances of the "optic disks."

Some surgical notes by Dr. Giberson describe a *cure* (at least, temporary) *of sciatica by nerve-stretching*. The force used by the surgeon's finger, passed under the sheathed nerve, between the great trochanter and the tuberosity of the ischium, is said to have been "nearly if not quite sufficient to lift the extremity from the table." The wound did not heal kindly, being followed by unhealthy suppuration, phlebitis, and septicæmia; but the neuralgia ceased from that time, and no paralysis occurred of sense or motion. The cure, real or apparent, had endured about three and a half months.

Some notes of *operations under nitrous oxide* are furnished by the same gentleman, who evidently thinks highly of this anæsthetic. The gravest case was an arm amputation, high up. The discussion ensuing exhibited great diversity of opinions. One gentleman (we forbear to mention his name) calmly asked if there be any anæsthetic "safer and better than pure chloroform."

Dr. Bulkley has a sensible article about *Diet and Hygiene in Diseases of the Skin*.

Several papers appear in which school hygiene and the actual condition of schools are dealt with. Our readers have recently heard a good deal about this matter, so we will only say that from an account here given, some of the schools in Brooklyn have reached a lower depth of disgraceful unwholesomeness than any yet described.

Dr. Benedict reports a case in which fifteen inches of small intestine, becoming intussuscepted, sloughed and came away. Apparently the patient never fully regained her health; but, upon dying, five months later, perfect reparative union was found to have occurred, about nine inches above the cæcal valve. The calibre of the tube, however, was reduced to a quarter-inch, for two or three inches.

7. The portly volume from *New Jersey* contains three formal essays, of considerable length and merit. The first is by Dr. A. N. Dougherty, upon *glycosuria*. The writer apparently has fortunately encountered only cases of recent origin or dependent on special and temporary causes. He allows a tolerably liberal and varied diet, though insisting on a bread free from starch, and eulogizing the English article known as Camplin's flour.

The other essays are by Dr. Ryerson, upon the *rectification of abnormal presentations in labour*, and by Dr. Deshler upon the *relations of the profession to the public health*. The latter strives especially to secure legislative provision for an efficient registration of births, marriages, and deaths. And lastly, in an article on *opium inebriety*, Dr. J. B. Mattison gives some well-deserved rebukes to "domestic hypodermic medication." It is notorious, as he says, that physicians, by loose and frequent use of the syringe, suggest, if they do not absolutely commend, the idea of its discretionary employment by their patients.

In a somewhat *epidemic dysentery* which prevailed widely in one section, blistering the abdomen with cantharides almost invariably produced a free fecal discharge and great relief.

A case of *spontaneous rupture of the colon*, twelve inches above the sigmoid flexure, is reported. There was a stricture below, but no ulceration or gangrene. The patient was a man over eighty, and the catastrophe happened during sleep, at night.

Questions as to the *contagiousness of phthisis* have elicited a number of expressions in the affirmative.

Malarial diseases, with diphtheria, and, in one county, something like typho-malarial, seem to have been the diseases most noticed. B. L. R.